

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-13 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7021

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MINISTER CONDEMNS THE US FOR ITS ROLE IN LEBANON

1. SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER AHMAND ISKANDER AHMAD WHO IS IN DELHI FOR THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ON THE PRESS AGENCIES POOL SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES AT A JULY 7 NEWS BRIEFING FOR ITS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS. ACCORDING TO THE HINDUSTAN TIMBENO NUPIC MZWCR ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL OF WANTING TO "ARABIZE" THE LEBANESE CRISIS AND LIQUIDATE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, THEY WANT TO CREATE CONTRADICTIONS AMONG COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF THE US PLAN AND THE SINAI AGREEMENT." AHMAD EXPLAINED THAT THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE (SIC) IN LEBANON INVOKED BOTH PARTIES TO CONTINUE FIGHTING WHILE ECONOMIC PRESSURES HAVE BEGUN TO BE APPLIED TO SYRIA, IN A PROCESS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ATTRITION. SOME PERSIAN GULF STATES AND EGYPT WERE SAID TO BE ENCOURAGING THE LEBANESE LEFTISTS. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, THE 'ONLY BENEFICIARY' OF CONTINUED UNCLASSIFIED

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FIGHTING WOULD BE THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.

2. MINISTER AHMAD STRONGLY DEFENDED SYRIAN ACTIONS AND COMPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "GREAT DISTORTION" IN THE INDIAN PRESS REPORTING. SYRIA HAD THE HARD OPTION OF STANDING AGAINST THE SECTARIAN CONFLICT AND LOSING ITS ALLIES OF YESTERDAY, OR OF KEEPING SILENT AND BEING A PARTY BOTH TO THE FIGHTING AND A PARTITION ON THE BASIS OF FALSE LEFTIST SLOGANS. SYRIA CHOSE TO REMAIN SINCERE, THE MINISTER SAID, AND INTERVENED. SYRIA IS AGAINST ANY PARTITION OF LEBANON AND "WILL EXERT WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE TO STOP IT."SAXBE

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